

OCEAN  
COMICS™

60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

No. 2  
Sept., 1988  
\$2.00 U.S.  
\$2.45 Can.

# POPEYE®



BEN  
DAVIS / DELL  
BARRAS  
88

# SHIP TO SHORE

Ahoy, swabbees, everywhere. Our wireless operator, Sparky Palin, says you've been keeping the airwaves humming with your comments on our first issue of the all new adventures of POPEYE. Let's get to them, then.

SSgt. Chester L. Cox  
Denver, CO

... I was unable to come to POPEYE SPECIAL #1 with an open mind. Thirty-one years of loving the character and his adventures is a major part of my personality. The formative years were built by Bud Sagendorf and Dave Fleischer. These things came with me to Ron Fortier's script and the rather jarringly interpretation of Ben Dunn's cartooning.

And POPEYE was waiting for me within those pages! The differences proved minor after all. His spirit and strong character were not diluted in the least. The new continuity and "new look" seemed like they always belonged.

This resembles in so many respects the old Dell POPEYE comics and the issues of the Gold Key POPEYE you (Bill Pearson) wrote: solid background (even if different), a twisted and silly villain (DRAGGING LADY! Where's TERRY & THE PIRATES?), and an exotic location (though Tokyo becomes less exotic every year). And though the characters look different, they're each recognizable. The story is exciting and enjoyable, and the cartooning is detailed and expressive enough to be compared to Segar's, Sagendorf's and Wildman's. It's still POPEYE, and he's still everything he always was. That's considerable and more than enough for anyone.

Continue, don't stop. I'm looking forward to the next issue — I hope.

The hardest thing was editing your really gracious letter, Serge. All of us here at Port HO say thanks and hope we will continue to provide you with the best POPEYE tales we can muster up. Let us know how you liked our solution to the decades old BLUTO/BRUTUS controversy.

Donald Fortenberry  
L.I.C., NY

Your new POPEYE book is terrible. Please stop publication and let the copyright be picked up by another company. Anyone could do a better job.

Unfortunately, Mr. Anyone was not available due to prior commitments, so you got stuck with us. Sorry. Hope you think #2 was better.

Ernest Pelletier  
Bellingham, MA

Congratulations on your excellent POP-EYE comic! The book seems to incorporate the best aspects of the Segar, Sagendorf, and Fleischer versions of this great classic hero. I hope you will produce more POPEYE

comics in the future. You have the creative team capable of bringing us exciting adventures which would enhance the quality and the dignity of the character. I'm looking forward to more adventures of the world's greatest sailor.

Ernest, we aim to please. You just keep those letters coming and let us know what we are doing right and most emphatically where we miss the mark. Thanks.

Fred Grandinetti  
Watertown, MA

... as for the TV cartoons, I can't say POP-EYE was a "twerp" in all of them, especially in the Max Fleischer films, but, while Sagendorf's strip was pulling a vanishing act from daily and Sunday papers in the United States from the early 1970's onward, these film and TV cartoons kept POPEYE in the public eye. Their unending popularity can't be dismissed so easily. It is the cartoons that have kept the POPEYE merchandise flowing. No other cartoon character has over 500 films to his credit!

Getting back to your comic, it has the potential to bring some notice back to the "comic strip/comic book" adventures of POPEYE which is long overdue.

Agreed, Fred. POPEYE deserves to stay in print in both strip and comic form.

Steven Smith  
Alt., NM

Your book has a unique look and quality to it. I could write on and on, saying what I liked in each panel and why, but, I'll just congratulate you ALL, and let you get back to work.

PS. POPEYE just appeared on THIMBLE THEATRE and became famous. Are you going to tell the same story (OLIVE meeting POPEYE accidentally when he became a hired-hand) or tell it from POPEYE's view, i.e. him coming aboard a ship for work? Or ... How will it be done?

The topic of when and how the skinny lady with the funny name will make her debut in this series has been the prevalent one around here for quite some time. As yet, no set decision has been reached. What do you say, POPEYE swabbees? How would you like to see their first ever meeting? Let us know.

Brian Mulvey

I had to let you know how much I enjoyed POPEYE: BORNED TO THE SEA. Your book captured the spirit of Segar and yet was fresh.

I would hope you can make POPEYE a regular comic. Your book and Gladstone's Disney titles are the oases in the mutant desert.

Mike Marshall  
Waxahachie, TX

I just finished reading POPEYE and I must say it was great. I have been a POPEYE buff for 26 years now and I never considered him as human as the comic book shows him. But I liked it. I see no fault at all.

You would have made Mr. Segar proud.

I can think of no better compliment. Stay with us, Mike, the best is just over the horizon.

Mark Marderosian  
Worcester, MA

I admit to being a POPEYE purist. He's my favorite fictional character even above SHERLOCK HOLMES. There aren't many additions to the Segar canon that I take seriously. Your summer special was enjoyable because the creative team took it seriously. While not devoid of humor, it didn't have the childish aspects of most recent versions. In my humble opinion, POPEYE was an adult work dealing with mature themes. It was nice to see it treated that way.

High praise indeed from the writer/artist of none other than DELTA TENN. All of us involved with the POPEYE book believe the character appeals to all age levels, and we were targeting no specific group when putting the project together. We simply set out to do the best job possible for all POPEYE fans, be they eight or eighty.

Well, blow me down, but that seems to be as much space as we have left on this issue's SHIP TO SHORE. All of us involved with POPEYE were very happy with the tremendous reaction our efforts garnered among all you diehard POPEYE fans. Each and every letter, whether pro or con, was appreciated, and we read each carefully.

We also heard from Mark Piazza, Van W. Ward, Mina O. Starnus, Ted Finch, Tom Bertino, Martin Berkowitz, Robert E. Holeman, Steve Bennett, Richard J. Ranke and Martin Powell. Thanks, one and all. Anchors away.

Ron Fortier

Send all letters of comment to SHIP TO SHORE c/o Ocean Comics, Inc., 88 Tiernan Ave., Warwick, RI 02886.

Bob and Kathy Palin  
Publishers and Editors-in-chief

E. C. Segar  
Creator

AUSTRALIA, THE LAND DOWN UNDER, A POWERFUL PROUD NATION, BUILT ON THE FIERCE PIONEER STOCK OF A HEARTY PEOPLE...



THE OUTBACK, LOCATED AT THE CENTER OF THIS CONTINENT NATION, IS A DESOLATE WILDERNESS FEW DARE TO VENTURE INTO. ONLY THE BRAVE OR ...

ARE WE ALMOST AT THE WAY STATION, DRIVER?

AY, MUM! ALICE SPRINGS IS JUST OVER THEM HILLS YONDER.



... THE STUPID, AMERICAN TOURISTS ON VACATION.



HEY, DAD, I JUST SAW SOMEBODY DUCK BEHIND THOSE ROCKS AHEAD!

OH, GOD! DRIVER, ARE THEY FOR REAL?



HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, MATES! THIS IS A STICK UP!

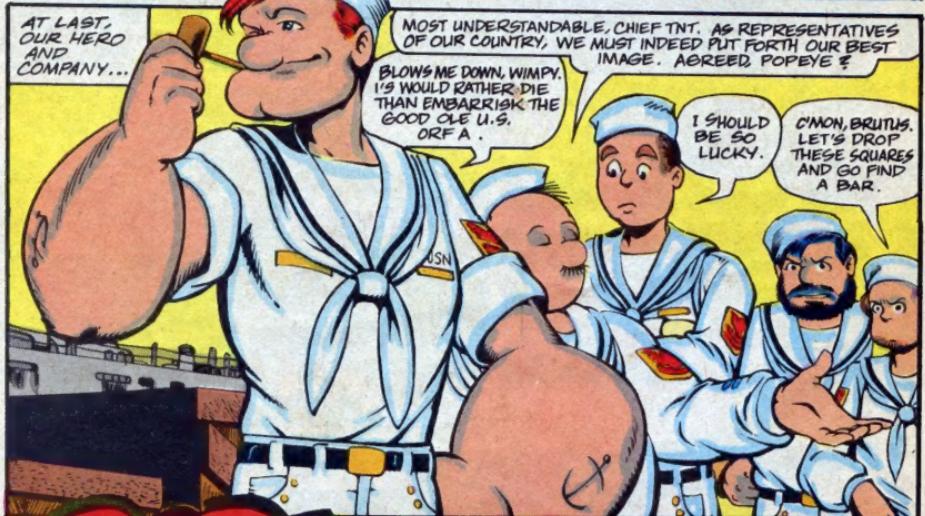
SIR, THEY BE DINKI-DI\*, FOR THAT BLOKE IS NONE OTHER THAN ...

\* Australian slang for REAL THING.

"... BAD BLUTO BUSHWACKER, MEANEST OUTLAW IN THE OUTBACK!"

WELCOME TO AUSTRALIA, FOLKS. HAR-HAR-HAR!





# POPEYE

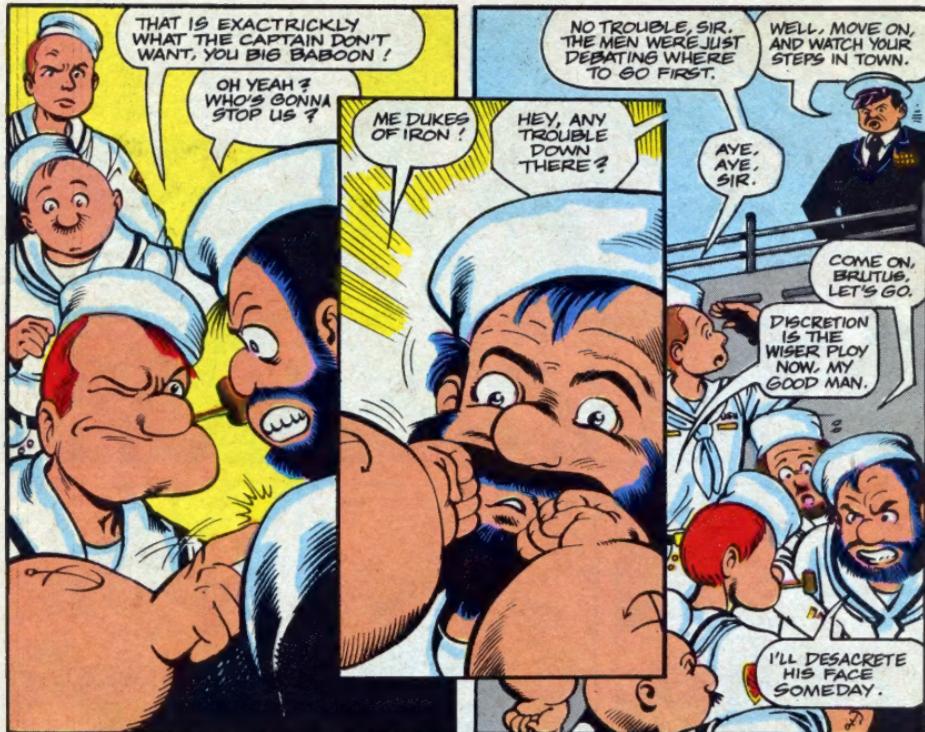
CREATED BY E.C. SEGAR

# "DOUBLE TROUBLE DOWN UNDER"

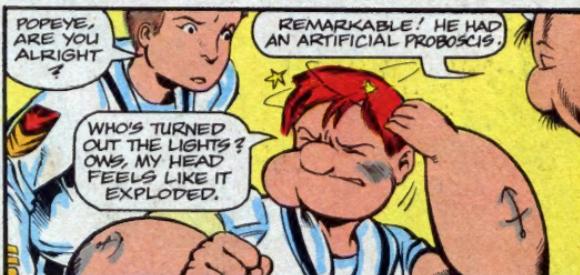
STORY: RON FORTIER DESIGN: BEN DUNN DIRECTOR: JAMES TAYLOR

1999-2000 EDITION

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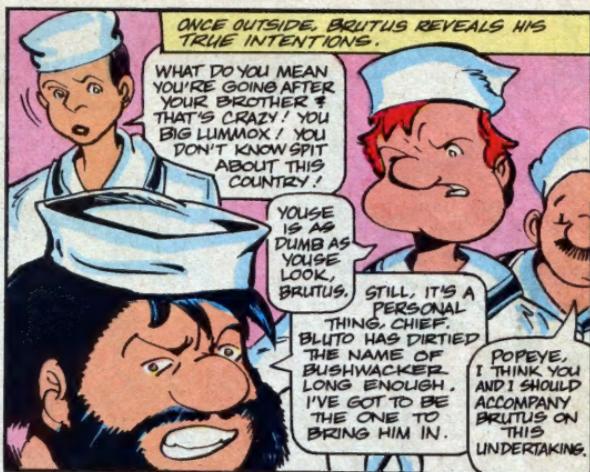












CHAPTER

2

PENCILS:  
TOM GRUMMETT

BY LATE AFTERNOON,  
OUR INTREPID TRIO  
IS TRAVELING  
WESTWARD INTO  
THE OUTBACK.

THIS IS MIGHTY BIG  
COUNTRY, WIMPY. IT'S  
GONNA TAKE US ALL OF  
THE THREE DAYS WE  
GOT TO SEARCH IT ALL.

TRUST IN THE FATES,  
BRUTUS, THEY ARE  
ETERNALLY ON THE  
SIDE OF THE GOOD  
AND THE INNOCENT.  
AND IN THIS PARTICULAR  
INSTANCE, I SINCERELY  
FEEL THAT DESCRIBES  
SOME OF US TO  
A TEE.

WELL, IT  
WOULD HELP  
IF WE COULD  
GO A LITTLE  
FASTER.

COME, COME, BRUTUS.  
POPEYE IS PUTTING  
FORTH HIS FINEST  
EFFORT ON OUR  
BEHALF.

HOW  
ARE YOU  
FARING,  
POPEYE?

I'S COULD  
USE ANOTHER  
CUP OF WATER.

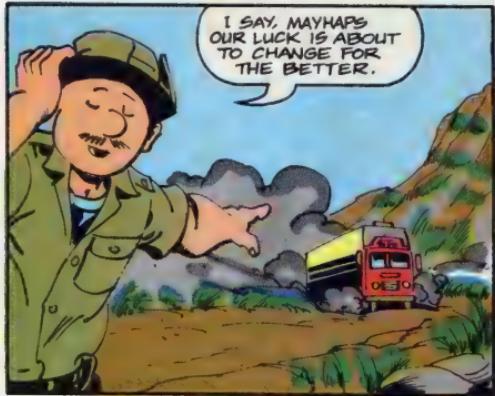
I FEAR RENTING  
THIS VEHICLE FROM  
HONEST WILLIE  
WAS NOT ONE OF MY  
WISER DECISIONS.

— GULP —  
— GULP —

TAIN'T YOUR  
FAULT THE  
ENGINE  
EXPLODED!  
IT COULDHAH  
HAPPEN TWOS  
ANYBODY.

WHAT?  
HE JUST TOOK  
A BREAK TEN  
MILES BACK!  
WE'LL NEVER  
GET ANYWHERE  
LIKE THIS.





YOU'VE SHARP PEEPERS, MATE. INA ATKINSON'S THE NAME, SOLE OWNER AND OPERATOR OF THE DESERT FLOWER TRANSPORT COMPANY AT YOUR SERVICE.

WE ARE CHARMED, DEAR LADY...



THOUGHT YOU COULD TRICK ME, DID YAH? WELL, TASTE THIS, YOU MANGY BUNCH OF DINGOES.\*  
NOT AGAIN!



\* DINGO - Australian wild dog

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ROY THOMAS spill  
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publication — more than  
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the result that we had  
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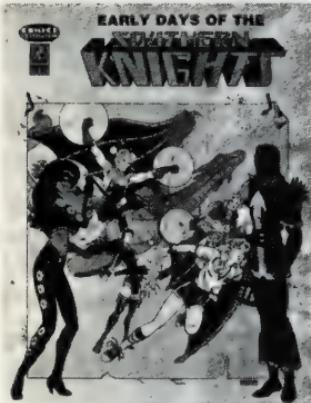
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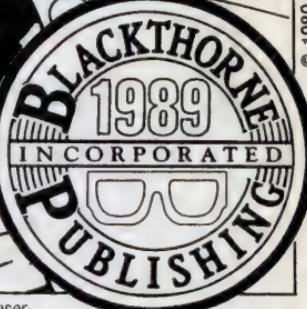
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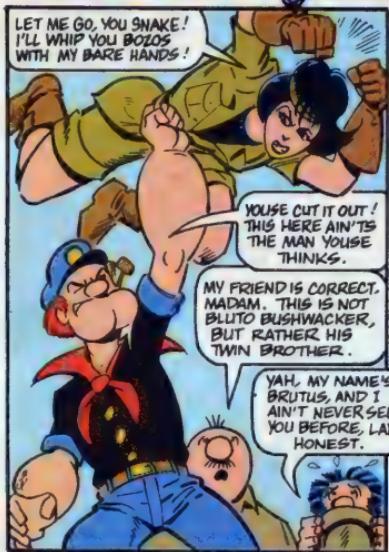
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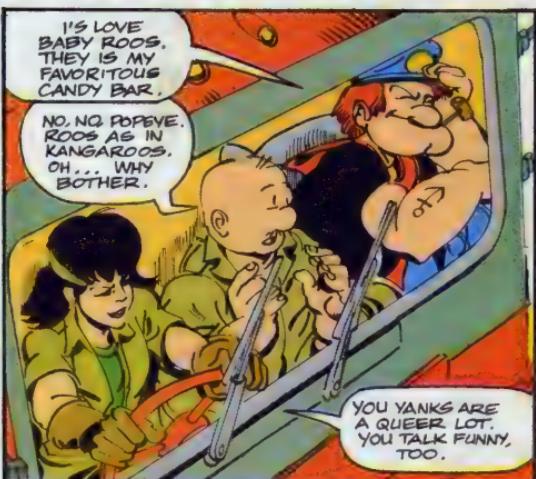
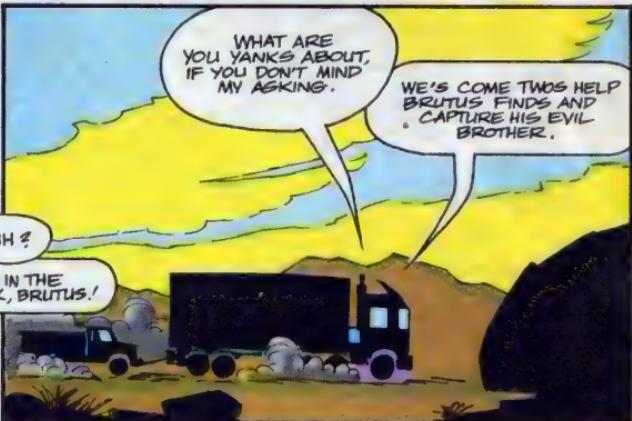
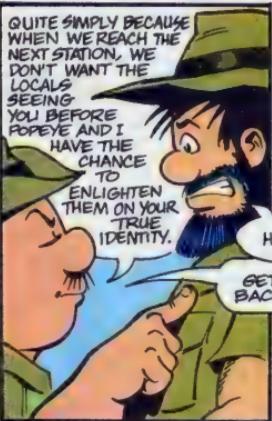
HOW COME YOU DRIVE A RIG, MA'AM?  
AIN'T IT HARD WORK FOR A WOMAN?

LOOK, CHUM, I'VE BEEN ON THESE ROADS  
FOR ALMOST TEN YEARS NOW AND I  
RIGHTLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING BETTER.  
I FEEL IMPORTANT BRINGING THE FOLKS  
THE THINGS THEY NEED TO GET BY.

BESIDES, I LOVE DRIVING.  
IT'S A BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY  
WE GOT HERE, AND IN MY  
LINE OF WORK, I GET TO  
SEE LOTS OF IT.

WE ARE  
ALL SET  
TO  
DEPART,  
MADAM.

HUH?  
WHY DO  
I HAVE  
TO RIDE  
BACK  
THERE?



SEVERAL HOURS  
AND MANY MILES  
OF DUST LATER.

WELL,  
GENTS.  
HERE WE ARE.  
MAKAROON  
TOWNSHIP.

AT LAST!  
I'M SO HUNGRY,  
I COULD EAT  
AN ELEPHANT!

I MUST CONCUR.  
A FEW WELL-GRILLED  
BURGERS ON SLIGHTLY  
TOASTED SESAME  
SEED BUNS WOULD  
CERTAINLY BE A  
WONDROUS SIGHT  
FOR THESE  
WEARY EYES.



WELL, IF IT'S GRUB YOU  
WANT, THERE IS THE FINEST  
COOK IN ALL OF THE OUTBACK  
RIGHT THERE, TOOTS O'BRIEN.  
SHE OWNS AND OPERATES  
THE EMPORIUM.

LOOK, TOOTS.  
IT'S AXLE, INA,  
AND SHE'S GOT  
RIDERS WITH  
HER.

I CAN SEE THAT, BILLY BLUE.  
I'M NOT BLIND YET!



GOOD TO  
SEE YOU  
AGAIN, INA.  
WE WERE  
STARTING  
TO GET  
SHORT OF  
SOME  
SUPPLIES.  
HOWDY,  
MATES.  
WELCOME  
TO  
MAKAROON.

THESE HERE YANKS  
ARE GOOD MATES,  
TOOTS, IN DESPERATE  
NEED OF A DECENT  
FEED.

FOR WHICH  
WE WOULD BE  
MOST GRATEFUL,  
MADAM.

AY, OLE ONE-EYE ALWAYS  
GETS EXCITED WHEN  
WE HAVE COMPANY.  
DON'T YOU, BOY?

YOUR DOG  
IS SURELY  
NOISERY,  
MRS TOOTS.

ONE  
EYE?!

IT APPEARS YOU TWO  
HAVE SOMETHING IN  
COMMON, HEH, YANK?





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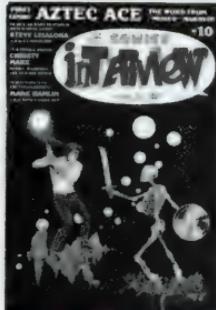


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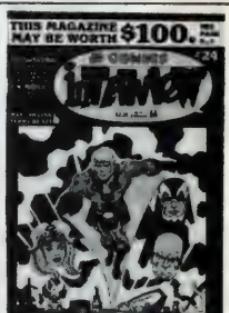
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### COMICS INTERVIEW

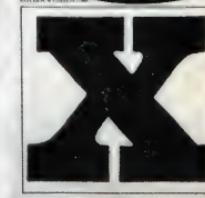


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### COMICS INTERVIEW



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## COMICS INTERVIEW



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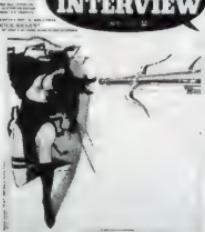
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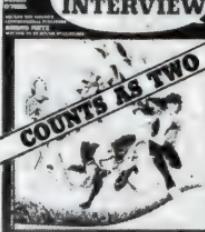


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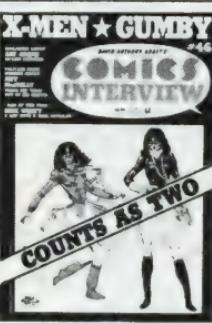
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CHAPTER

**3**

ART & LETTERING: GARY KATO

LED BY THE ABORIGINE, BILLY, BLUE, AND THE DINGO, ONE-EYE, OUR HEROES GET AN EARLY START THE NEXT MORNING.

HURRY, ONE-EYE HAS PICKED UP VERY STRONG SCENT!

KEEP MOVING, BILLY. WE'S RIGHTS BEHIND YAH.

WAS IT NECESSARY TO ABANDON YOUR LORRY, INA?



THERE AIN'T NO HIGHWAYS WHERE WE'RE HEADED, WIMPY. WE JUST HAVE TO DOG IT THROUGH.

I AM JUST CONCERNED FOR YOUR SAFETY AND WELL-BEING IN THIS RATHER DANGEROUS UNDERTAKING, MADAM.

BONZERS, THE OUTBACK IS MY HOME. IF YOU MUST WORRY, THEN I SUGGEST CENTERING YOUR THOUGHTS ON POOR MR. BRUTUS. I FEAR IF THAT NO GOOD BROTHER OF HIS HAS HIM, THEN . . .

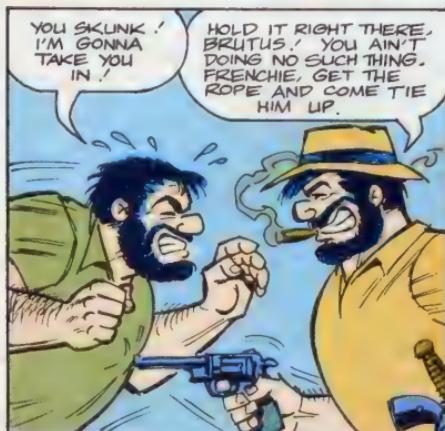


...HE IS IN DIRE STRAITS, INDEED.

OOOH, MY HEAD. WHAT HIT ME?

WHAT HIT YOU WAS A BOLT OF STUPIDITY, DEAR BROTHER MINE.

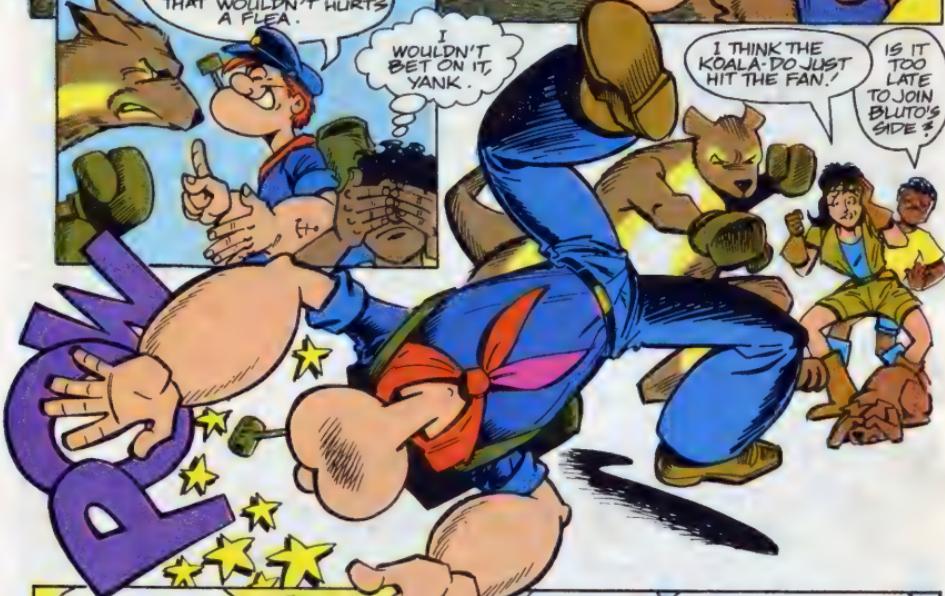




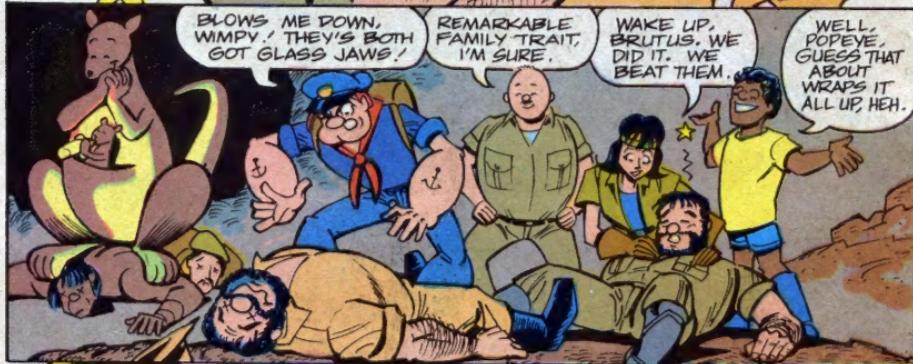














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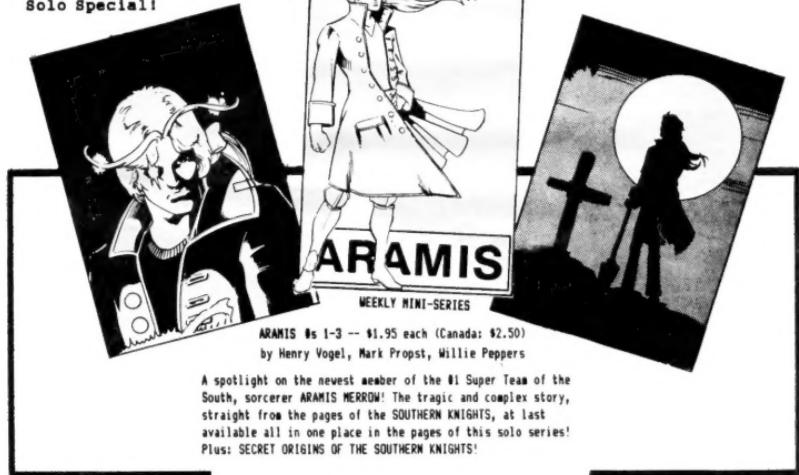
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